

Message Text

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R 161632Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS: EMIN, ETRD

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MERCURY PRODUCERS

REF: A) STATE 243998 (NOTAL) (6 NOV 74); ANKARA 8972

(15 NOV 74); MADRID 7605 (4 DEC 74)

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1. LONDON TRADE PUBLICATION,METALS BULLETIN REPORTED IN APRIL 22 ISSUE THAT MERCURY PRODUCERS FROM SPAIN, ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA, TURKEY, PERU AND ALGERIA MET IN GENEVA WEEK OF APRIL 14-18 TO ADOPT AND SIGN STATUTES OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MERCURY PRODUCERS.

2. ACCORDING TO METALS BULLETIN, THE NEW ASSOCIATION, ACRONYMED ASSIMER, WILL BE BASED IN GENEVA, WHERE THE BATELLE INSTITUTE WILL REPORTEDLY PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ASSOCIATION'S DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS. ASSIMER'S OFFICIAL AIM WILL BE TO DEFEND ITS MEMBERS' INTERESTS, TO PROMOTE PRODUCTION AND USE OF MERCURY, OFFER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS AND ARRANGE JOINT TECHNICAL STUDIES.

3. METALS BULLETIN ARTICLE SAYS ASSIMER STATUTES CONTAIN NO REFERENCE TO A MINIMUM PRICE, ALTHOUGH ONE AIM OF ASSOCIATION WOULD BE "TO END WIDE PRICE FLUCTUATIONS AND TO ACHIEVE STABILIZATION OF PRICES IN A WAY GIVING

SATISFACTION TO PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS." THE MINIMUM PRICE OF 350 DOLLARS PER FLASK (76 POUNDS) SET BY PRODUCERS IN A MAY 1974 MEETING AT ALGIERS IS NOW DESCRIBED AS "AN OBJECTIVE TO BE OBTAINED." THERE IS NO INDICATION HOW THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE OBTAINED: RECENT EUROPEAN PRICES FOR MERCURY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE DIPPED TO RECORD LOWS OF 130-140 DOLLARS PER FLASK IN APRIL.

4. EVEN THOUGH INFORMAL PRODUCER ASSOCIATION SET UP IN MAY 1974 HAS PROVEN SPECTACULARLY UNSUCCESSFUL IN MAINTAINING MERCURY PRICES AT LEVELS DESIRED BY PRODUCERS, WE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN PRODUCER EFFORTS TO ENHANCE THEIR MERCURY EARNINGS. ACCORDINGLY, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON ASSIMER THAT POSTS MAY DEVELOP, IN PARTICULAR, STATUTES OF ASSOCIATION AND ANY PLANS ASSIMER MAY HAVE TO INFLUENCE PRICES. KISSINGER

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